

Institutional Racism can be seen most clearly by looking at the nomination of Deb Haaland for Secretary of the Interior. Ms Haaland will be the first Native American to hold a cabinet position and, as the head of the Department of the Interior, she will be the first Native American to control the Bureau of Indian affairs since it was founded in 1824. The inherent institutional racism that prevented Native American from leading the organization that controlled their destiny for so long should be obvious to all. The resistance that she will face in her Senate hearings will be based in stereotypes and thinly veiled dog-whistle terminology. However, it is the lack of news coverage about the impact of her nomination on Native Americans that we really need to pay attention to. We need to hear their voices and understand why, as the Washington Post said, "tears seemed to rain all over Indian Country after Haaland's selection was announced last week." We need to lift up those voices and support the dismantling of the institutional racism that controls and represses BIPOC in this country. We start by acknowledging that, by rights, the land on which we live, was taken from others who were here before us.